

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 17

By Carr

A RESOLUTION to urge the U.S. Department of the Interior to provide additional funding to Great Smoky Mountains National Park based upon the number of its annual visitors.

WHEREAS, a national treasure, Great Smoky Mountains National Park has been the most visited national park for many years, with more than 14.1 million recreational visitors in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the cost of maintaining the facilities of Great Smoky Mountains National Park and managing its 522,419 acres of majestic wilderness across two states has drastically increased; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that the U.S. Department of the Interior address the funding formula used to provide appropriations for Great Smoky Mountains National Park and include an additional layer of funding based on the number of annual visitors to ensure and safeguard the future of this jewel of the national park system for the generations yet to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby urge the U.S. Department of the Interior to increase the appropriation for Great Smoky Mountains National Park to include new, additional funds above the park's current funding level with such funding based upon the number of annual visitors the park receives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of the Interior and each member of the Tennessee Congressional delegation.